

February 22, 2017

Dear Honorable Members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Carter Shingleton, and I live in Burlington. I am a 15-year old boy with intellectual disabilities. I am writing this letter with help from my mom. I am testifying on the impact of the Governor's budget on people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

I am deeply concerned about the Governor's removal of funds from his proposed state budget for programs benefiting high school graduates who have intellectual or developmental disabilities. I have disabilities, and my future may depend on these funds, which would allow me opportunities after high school graduation that I otherwise might not have. This not only will adversely affect me, but also some of my friends. Many of us will not have access to day services, jobs, or career opportunities in the absence of this funding. Families would be adversely affected, as oftentimes, adults with disabilities can not be left home alone while their caregivers go to work. This could force caregivers to have to give up their jobs, which would reduce their ability to care for themselves and their dependents at a sustainable level. There is nothing good about the proposed elimination of funding for programs that are very important to people with disabilities and their families.

Please restore funding for day and employment services for new graduates!

Also, please support the Governor's proposal to invest \$3.8 million in the ID Partnership which will help people on the DDS residential waiting list, support developing more residential options for people with I/DD, and stabilize community based supports.

Thank you for your time and efforts.

Sincerely,

Carter Shingleton  
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